

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE,
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, NR33 0HT**

REPORT: PRINCE MADOG CRUISE 1/2001

STAFF:

Dr C Fox (SIC)

Miss N Bunn

Mr P Davison

Miss H Rossetti

DURATION: 29 January - 1 February, 2001

LOCATION: Eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a plankton survey in the eastern Irish Sea to estimate the location, magnitude and timing of plaice spawning (project M0423).
2. To collect zooplankton samples for copepod biomass studies (project M0423).

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge by van embarking on 29 January 2001. Equipment including a towed transducer for receiving Scanmar depth signals was installed and the vessel sailed at 12:30. A successful gear trial was undertaken just outside the Menai Straits. The Prince Madog then proceeded into the eastern Irish Sea.

Sampling was completed at 12:10 on 1 February 2001 and the vessel returned to Menai Bridge. Sea state varied between calm to moderate during sampling with increasing winds toward the end of the cruise.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. A total of fifty-four plankton stations were sampled. At each station a main net (270 μ m mesh) and fine net (80 μ m mesh) sample were collected and preserved in 4% buffered formaldehyde for later laboratory analysis. Little net clogging was experienced.

Most equipment functioned satisfactorily but the flowmeter logging system failed on a significant number of stations. It will however be possible to estimate water volumes filtered for those stations based upon the sampling duration.

C J Fox

1 February 2001

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list+

Staff on cruise

R. Nash (PEML)

H. Rossetti (PEML)

S. Milligan

Sea Fisheries Committees: North Western and North Wales & Cumbria